Times of Ist April, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the Chief Justice of India has stated that emotional phobia of creating a climate of settlement should be avoided while taking decisions in Lok Adalats;

(c) whether Government propose to direct the Lok Adalats to consider cases only as recommended by Chief Justice of India; and

(d) if so, what is Government's view in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Lok Adalat is one of the approved Strategic Legal Aid Programmes adopted by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes set up by the Central Government. The Chief Justice of India is the Ex-officio Patron-in-Chief of this Committee. The Lok Adalats, which function on the basis of voluntary settlements on conciliation, are being organised by the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards in different parts of the country for resolution of disputes. These Lok Adalats are often attended by the Executive Chairman and other officers of the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Scheme and there is a constant food back regarding the functioning and achievements of Lok Adalats being held in various parts of the country. There is nothing in the existing Scheme nor in the Act which is yet to be enforced to limit Lok Adalat cases on the basis of specific recommendation of the Chief Justice.

Seizure of Foreign Currencies from a Jewellery shop in Chandni Chowk

185. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of Enforcement Directorate have seized foreign currencies of different denominations worth over Rs. 5 lakhs during a raids on a jewellery shop in Chandni Chowk in the month of March, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the details of persons apprehended in this connection; and

(c) what action Government propose to take against them under FERA?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Consequent upon searches conducted by the Officers of the Directorate of Enforcement on 20-3-90 at the premises of Shri Praduman Kumar Jain, Delhi, foreign currencies of the value of Rs.3.65 lakhs and Indian currency amounting to Rs.3.88 lakhs besides documents were seized. During the course of the search, three persons who visited his business premises were also searched and foreign currencies amounting to Rs. 20,000/- in addition to Indian currency of Rs.19,260 and some documents were seized from their persons. Shri Praduman Kumar Jain alongwith Shri Sanjay Kumar Jain, one of the persons who had visited his business premises, were arrested on 21-3-90 and produced before the court who remanded them to judicial custody. Action as warranted under the law has been initiated against the concerned parties.

Need to developed New Theory to resolve disputes in Courts

186. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has stressed the need to develop a new theory to resolve the disputes in view of the massive arrears of litigation pending in all courts;

(b) whether Government propose to initiate new measures to clear arrears of litigation pending in all courts;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE

AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir. No reference has, however, been received in this Department from the Chief Justice of India, in this behalf.

(b) and (c) Various steps have been taken by the Government from time to time, to reduce overall pendency in the courts. A Committee of 3 Chief Justices of High Courts has been constituted in January, 1989 to make an indepth study of the problem of arrears in Courts and to suggest remedial measures.

Seizure of Ball Bearings being smuggled into India from Nepal

187. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has recently seized ball bearings worth Rs.20 lakhs which was being smuggled into India from Nepal in two trucks;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and also the number of persons apprehended in this connection; and

(c) what fresh steps Government are taking to check illegal smuggling across Indo-Nepal border?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) On 18th March, 1990 the Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted two trucks near Faizabad and seized ball bearings of foreign origin valued at Rs.11.98 lakhs approximately. The two trucks valued at Rs.7.50 lakhs were also seized. Investigations have revealed that the two trucks had crossed over into India from Nepal. Three persons i.e. two drivers and one cleaner of the trucks have been arrested.

(c) The anti-smuggling agencies remain alert to check such smuggling from across the Indo-Nepal border. Closed co-ordination is being maintained amongst all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling. Co-ordination meetings are also being held with the officers of the State Governments. Special drives are also launched along the borders to curb smuggling.

Pending Cases in Madras High Court

188. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of civil, criminal and other miscellaneous matters pending in the Madras High Court;

(b) what is the category-wise number of cases pending for the last ten, five and three years;

(c) what is the number of vacancies in the Madras High Court; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the strength of the Madras High Court; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) As on 31-12-1988, 116255 civil, 7561 criminal and 101820 miscellaneous matters were pending in Madras High Court.

(b) The category-wise details are as under:

(As on 31-12-1988)

	Over 10 Years	Over 5 Yrs.	Over 3 Yrs.
Civil Cases	758	27100	55683
Criminal Cases	1	125	795
Miscellaneous cases	123	4043	24001

(c) As on 30-4-1990, there were 2 vacancies of Judges out of the sanctioned strength of 25 Judges.

(d) The creation of 7 new posts of Judges has been agreed to.